



HNW-P14

SELF-PROPELLED INSTRUMENTED DEEP DRILLING SYSTEM

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SPECIFICATION

This U.S. patent application claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/443,215 filed on January 27, 2003, entitled "Inchworm Deep Drilling System", with inventors in common herewith.

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The subject matter herein was developed in part under a research contract provided by the U.S. Government, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Contract No. _____ . The U.S. Government retains certain rights in the invention.

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TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a self-propelled drilling device which can autonomously drill deep holes while moving into the ground, in order to eliminate the need for the conventional type of drill-string drilling rig used in conventional deep drilling operations. The device is particularly desired for use in autonomous deep drilling applications such as for probes on extraterrestrial bodies, as well as for applications on Earth.

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BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

In the prior art, there have been many types of drill platforms that are erected at the site of drilling and use a large number of drill strings (tubes) that are strung one after another to drill